(c) the number of personnel of Delhi Fire Service and others, separately, who perished in the fire; and

(d) whether any compensation/financial assistance has been paid by Government to next of kin of the victims and to those who were seriously injured in the incident, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The cause of fire and estimated loss of property could not be assessed.

(c) Seven officials of the Delhi Fire Service and one civilian, who was assisting them, died in the fire.

(d) The compensation/assistance given to the next of kin of the victims is indicated below:—

(i) Financial assistance of Rs.10,00,000/- has been given to the next of kin of each of the seven Delhi Fire Service officials who lost their lives;

(ii) A sum of Rs. 2,00,000/- has been paid to the next of kin of each of the seven deceased officials from the Delhi Fire Service Benevolent Fund;

(iii) Rs. 10,00,000/- has been paid to the next of kin of the deceased civilian also who died in the fire;

(iv) Financial assistance of Rs.1,00,000/- has been given to each of the seriously injured officials and Rs. 25,000/- to those officials who suffered minor injuries;

(v) Rs. 2,00,000/- has been paid to the next of kin of each deceased fire officials as insurance cover by Insurance Agencies;

(vi) One member each from the families of the seven deceased Delhi Fire Service personnel has been issued offer of appointment to the post of Lower Division Clerk on compassionate grounds.

Setting up of composite early warning system

3025. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Tamil Nadu had

suggested to the Centre to make mechanism in place for undertaking storm surge modelling at National and State level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the State Government of Tamil Nadu had demanded for setting up of a composite early warning system; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Tamil Nadu has suggested to the Centre to put in place a mechanism for undertaking storm surge modeling at the National and State level. The Government of Tamil Nadu has also suggested for setting up a composite early warning system to forewarn the people living in the coastal areas and to take up necessary mitigation measures in the medium and long term. The Department of Ocean Development, the nodal agency, has already initiated action for setting up the Tsunami Early Warning System in the Indian Ocean at a cost of Rs.125 crore with a time line of two and a half years. The Tsunami Early Warning System will also be utilized for forecasting storm surges.

Strengthening of security at Nepal and Bhutan borders

3026. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to strengthen the security on the borders with Nepal and Bhutan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that over the next two years, 20 more battalions would be raised and deployed on the borders with Nepal and Bhutan; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the forces deployed to these borders were thin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government have decided to strengthen the security on the borders with Nepal and Bhutan to thwart